(b) when this study has commissioned;

(c) by when this study would be completed;

(d) whether Government will help such orthopaedically handicapped beggars to get artificial aids and equipment; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal for exclusively assisting Orthopaedically handicapped beggars under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of AIDS/Appliances (ADIP) Scheme. However under ADIP Scheme, needy disabled persons are assisted in procuring aids/ appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and to enhance their economic potential.

Social security system for elderly

2078. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state whether Government have any intention to establish a comprehensive system of social security for the elderly; if, so, the details of such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): Yes, Sir. The Government is in the process of bringing in a legislation to ensure maintenance, care and protection of parents and senior citizens.

Cases of witch-hunting

2079. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that witch-hunting is still prevailing in many States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise for the last five years; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government against the accused and for the rehabilitation of the victim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Combating this evil practice is to be done at one level as an aspect of maintenance of law and order and prevention of crime, and on another through awareness generation and spread of education.

Some of the States, namely Bihar and Jharkhand, where this practice has been prevalent have adopted their own laws to deal with it.

Funds allocated under Mahila Samriddhi Yojana

2080. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount disbursed to the women weaker sections under the Mahila Samriddhi Yojana during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the target set and achievements made under the scheme during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to review/appraise the functioning of the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The Statement is attached (*See* below). No targets are set under the Mahila Samriddhi Yojana as the State Channelizing Agencies are responsbile for implementation of the scheme at the grass root level.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.